

***St. Nicholas Orthodox Church - Monongahela, Pa.***  
**Bible Study - Old Testament Heroes of Faith**  
**Session 3 - Joshua**

*O Master who loves mankind, illuminate our hearts with the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our mind to understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, that we may overcome all carnal desires, entering upon a spiritual life and understanding and doing all things to please You. For You are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, O Christ God, and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and You all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.*

**I. WHO IS JOSHUA?**

A. What do we learn about Joshua from these passages:

- Exodus 17:8-16
- Exodus 24:12-13
- Numbers 13:1-2; 13:16
- Deuteronomy 34:9 (p. 255)
- Joshua 1:1-5 (p. 257)

B. What commands are given to Joshua in Joshua 1:3-9?

What promises?

C. Which of God's promises would be most helpful to you, if you were "left on your own"?

D. Which commands might have been most terrifying to Joshua as he is called to fill the shoes of Moses?

**For reflection:** God's Word is filled with hundreds of promises such as these: (vss. 3-6, 9). But we must know those promises and act on them by faith. God's promises are given to carry us through the Jordan rivers of life, not necessarily to remove them but to enable us to step out in faith to cross them. They are not given so we can avoid or go around, but so we can cross them victoriously. We must understand that these promises are for me and trust God that they are true.

## II. THE SPIES – Chapter 2

*read 2:1-13*

- A. Why did the two spies go straight to a prostitute's house? a. the same reason men go there b. it was the first house they came to c. she was the least likely to get suspicious d. she was the least likely to be suspected e. God led them to her
- B. Despite her occupation and her lying, what in this chapter build's Rahab's reputation as a woman of faith?

**From the Fathers:** No lie is just...As for its being written that God dealt well with Rahab the harlot of Jericho, He did not deal well with her because she lied but because she was merciful to the men of God. And so, it was not their deception that was rewarded, but their benevolence...

*Blessed Augustine*

- C. How do you think Rahab related to God at this point? a. she was a closet believer b. she was not a believer c. she feared God but did not love Him d. she had heard of God but wasn't ready to be counted yet e. she was experiencing a "foxhole" conversion

- D. see also: Hebrews 11:31 (p. 1668) and James 2:25 (p. 1677)

St. James argues in his letter of the importance of faith and works in "making us right" with God. How was Rahab "made right"?

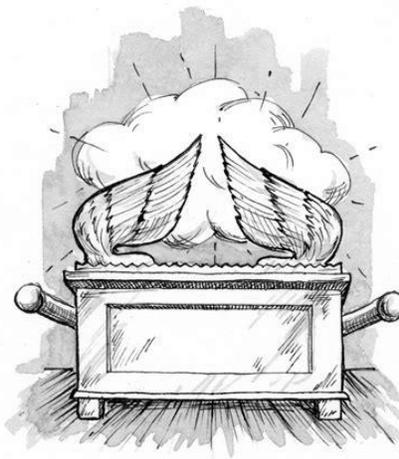
- E. When we hear how God worked through "those on the other side" how do I feel?  
Fear? Anger! Jealousy? Vicarious joy? Inspired faith? "It's not fair!"

## III. CROSSING THE JORDAN RIVER – Chapter 3

*read 3:1-13*

A. What is the “ark of the covenant”? see glossary p. 1776

see also Exodus 25:10-22 (p. 97) especially 25:22



B. Aside from the miraculous way the river was crossed, the most important feature of this chapter is the Ark of the Covenant. Its prominence is stressed in the number of times it is mentioned in chapters 3 and 4 (nine times in chapter 3 and seven times in chapter 4) and by the nature of the commands and statements given in its regard.

What’s so important about the Ark?

C. Why must the people wait to see the Ark and then keep their distance? a. to keep separate from a holy God b. to better see how wonderfully God will lead them c. to receive guidance on the way to go d. all of the above e. other

D. Read 6:1-8 Why is the Ark carried around Jericho?

E. What lesson can we learn when we face challenges, or the unknown, or the dangerous....?

F. St. Paul felt inadequate to perform the ministry to which he was called. Where did he find support? See 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (p. 1576)

G. The prayer of ordination of a deacon or priest is: *“Divine Grace which always heals the ill and make up for what is lacking, promotes the devout subdeacon \_\_\_\_ to the diaconate. Therefore let us pray for him that the grace of the most Holy Spirit may come upon him, and let us all say....*

- H. How is this crossing of the Jordan River a “type” of baptism?
- I. What other event in the experience of the Hebrew people occurred at a body of water?
- J. What other great event occurred at the Jordan River?

#### **IV. JOSHUA’S FINAL ADDRESS – Chapter 23**

*read chapter 23*

- A. What does Joshua remind the leaders of in v. 3-5?
- B. What advice/warning does he give in v. 6-8?
- C. What warning does he repeat in v. 7, v. 12 and v. 16?
- D. How can this be a danger for us today?
- E. One of the best known and most quoted passages in the book of Joshua is 24:14-15.

Copy down the last sentence of v. 15:

